

We claim:

1. A method for enabling a client terminal to access a wireless network, comprising the
5 steps of:
 - receiving an access request from the client terminal;
 - redirecting the access request to a local web server; requesting, from the client
terminal, information required to establish client terminal access to the wireless network;
 - activating, in response to the information received from the client terminal, a software
10 module that reconfigures the client terminal for authentication using appropriate parameters
associated with a configuration arrangement selected by a user; and
 - authenticating the reconfigured client terminal and allowing access to the wireless
network in response to the authentication.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the wireless network is an IEEE 802.11
compliant wireless local area network (WLAN), and the client terminal is an IEEE 802.1x
compliant client terminal.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the activating step comprises activating an
20 Active X control/plugin previously installed on the client terminal.
4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the activating step comprises downloading
to, and activating in, the client terminal an Active X control/plugin.
- 25 5. An access point for providing a secure communications session between a client
terminal and a wireless network, comprising: a means for receiving an access request from the
terminal; a means for redirecting the access request to a local web server for allowing a
reconfigured access to the wireless network, means for activating, in response to the
information received from the client terminal, a software module that reconfigures the client
30 terminal for authentication using appropriate parameters associated with a configuration
arrangement selected by a user; and means for authenticating the reconfigured client terminal
and allowing access to the wireless network in response to the authentication.

6. The access point according to claim 5, wherein the access point complies with the IEEE 802.11 standards and the client terminal is an IEEE 802.1x compliant client terminal.

7. A method for configuring a client terminal to provide secure access in a wireless network comprising the steps of the wireless network access point filtering traffic associated with an access request and thereby redirecting a client terminal HTTP request to a designated web server, and responsive to a request by the web server to the client terminal requesting information required to establish an authorized communication.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the wireless network is an IEEE 802.11 compliant wireless local area network (WLAN) and the client terminal is an IEEE 802.1x compliant client terminal.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of the client terminal providing the web server information required to establish an authorized communication.

10. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the web server and communicating to the client terminal access rate information required to establish an authorized communication.

11. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the web server and communicating to the client terminal access user account creation information required to establish an authorized communication.

12. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the web server and communicating to the client terminal access authentication method selection information required to establish an authorized communication.

13. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the web server and communicating to the client terminal new account creation information required to establish an authorized communication.

14. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the web server and communicating to the client terminal access user terms and conditions of acceptance information required to establish an authorized communication.

5 15. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the client terminal and communicating to the web server access rate information required to establish an authorized communication.

10 16. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the client terminal and communicating to the web server user account creation data required to establish an authorized communication.

15 17. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the client terminal and communicating to the web server user access authentication method selection information required to establish an authorized communication.

20 18. The method according to claim 8, further comprises the step of receiving from the client terminal and communicating to the web server acceptance of the user access terms and conditions required to establish an authorized communication.

19. The method according to claim 8, whereby the browser program is an ActiveX control.

20. The method according to claim 8, whereby the browser program is a plug-in.